of Government. The Consumer movement is an ongoing process which is gaining momentum. Continuous efforts are being made by the Government to make people aware of their rights as consumers. Publicity programmes through audio, video and print media have been undertaken by the Government to spread consumer awareness throughout the country. Finacial assistance is also provided to eligible voluntary consumer organizations to undertake activities for promoting consumer awareness. As a result the number of voluntary consumer organizations and also the number of complaints filed with the consumer disputes redressal agencies have significantly increased.

(c) The disposal of cases filed with consumer disputes redressal agencies is affected mainly by the inadequate infrastructure, frequent adjournments. vacancies in posts of the President/Member, etc. To remove these constraints, some of the important steps taken by the Central Government are as follows:—

(i) To strengthen the infrastructure of the consumer disputes redressal agencies, the Central Government has provided a One-Time-Grant of Rs. 61.80 crores to the States/UTs.

(ii) Monitoring of working of consumer disputes redressal agencies through the National Commission.

(iii) States and Union Territories have been requested to take prompt steps to fill up vacant posts of President/Member in the consumer disputes redressal agencies.

(iv) State and UT Governments are requested from time to time to take steps for ensuring the smooth functioning and monitoring of the consumer disputes redressal agencies.

(v) Amendment to the Consumer Protection Act. 1986 and the Rules framed thereunder to facilitate quicker disposal of cases by the redressal agencies.

Transportation of wheat from Punjab and Haryana

*548. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS. FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat transported out of Punjab and Haryana in the months of March. April and May during 1998,1999 and 2000;

(b) whether the railways has been able to generally fulfil the demand for special trains during these months every year;

(c) if not. the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to match the demand of wheat in various States ?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : (a) The quantity of wheat transported out of Punjab and Haryana in the months of March, April and May during 1998,1999 and 2000 is given below :—

(In lakh tonnes)

Month	Ex-Punjab			Ex-Haryana		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
March	3.52	3.84	8.60	1.40	3.33	4.24
April	3.62	4.23	5.73	1.37	2.05	2.26
May	2.97	6.06	3.27	1.08	2.14	1.46
Total	10.11	14.13	17.6	3.85	7.52	7.96

(b) to (d) The supply of rakes by the railways during the relevant period has generally remained satisfactory. The stock position of wheat in various States was comfortable.

Withdrawal of Forces from Siachen

*549. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned Summit may lead to withdrawal of forces from Siachen" as appearing in the 'Hindu' dated the 27th June. 2001;

(b) whether of late the Governments of two countries have realised that it is costing them huge amounts in terms of men. money and materials; and

(c) if so. the details of the decision taken in the matter ?